Victim and Witness Assistance Protocol

NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

PARRIS ISLAND, SC

Who are we?

- Federal law enforcement agency that investigates
- Actual, suspected or alleged major criminal offenses for the Navy and the Marine Corps
- Major Criminal Offense = Punishment of more than one year confinement
- SECNAVINST 5520.3B OF 04JAN93

NCIS Mission

- GENERAL CRIMES
  - Sex Crimes and Family Violence
  - Cold Case Homicide
  - Property Crimes
  - Crimes against Persons
- FOREIGN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE (FCI)
- ECONOMIC CRIMES (Fraud)

Victim Witness Program consists of four principal areas

- The base police or patrol element
- NCIS/CID (Investigative element)
- NLSO/SJA (Trial element)
- Brig/Prison (Corrections element)

Possible NCIS Cases Requiring Victim Advocate Assistance

- Spousal Rape/Indecent Assault/Forcible Sodomy
- Spousal Stalking and other threatening behaviors
- Homicide (intra-familial)
- Child Sex Abuse
- Child Physical Abuse
- Child Pornography

NCIS investigation involves

- Determine if a crime has been committed
- Determine who has jurisdiction
- Determining how to meet the elements of the crime
- Interview all victims and witnesses
- Crime Scene consideration
- Locate and Interrogate subject
- Referring the case to Command for prosecution

Responsibilities of NCIS to victim/witness of crimes

- Provide a informational brochure
- Inform of available medical and social services
- Provide information on restitution and compensation
- Provide information on counseling and treatment programs
- Explain the role of the victim during the investigation and prosecution of case

Cont.

- Arrange for reasonable protection from offender
- If possible, keep victim updated on the status of the case
- Victim/witness should be informed on the arrest of subject
- Sometimes inform on the filing of charges against accused, all court appearances and the release or detention of accused
- Ensure that any property of the victim being held as Evidence is being maintained in good condition until it can be returned to the victim.

Other Notifications if not the victim

- Spouse
- Guardian
- Parent
- Child
- Sibling
- Another family member
- A person designated by the court

Example

- 18 year old dependant wife, who lives in Base housing, reports to the police that she was raped by a coworker of her husband, while attending a party at a neighbor’s house.

QUESTIONS???????????????